

torney and politician of Plattsburgh, has been in the city this week on legal business.

A company of young married people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Ayers, 1030 K street, Feb. 20th, and organized the T. A. M. Crokinole club with the following officers: Mrs. P. A. Sommerlad, president; Mrs. A. C. Townsend, vice-president; Mrs. E. B. Ransom, secretary and treasurer. After the constitution and by laws had been adopted, the boards were brought out and a merry contest ensued. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers were the winners of the royal prizes, and Mrs. Townsend and Mr. Hotaling received the consolation prizes. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess. Members present were Messrs. and Mesdames Hotaling, Townsend, Sommerlad, Ransom, Violet and Ayers.

The T. A. M. Crokinole club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sommerlad 403 South 25th Thursday evening. The contestants for the royal prizes were Mrs. Ayers and Mr. Spencer, and the consolations were Mrs. Violet and Mr. Ayers. Elegant refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by Miss Hyde. Members present were Messrs. and Mesdames Violet, Ayers, Townsend, Ransom, Hotaling, Spencer, Sommerlad and Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Gesting are the happy parents of a daughter.

Ex-Governor Crouse and Ex-Governor Furnas were in the city this week looking over the senatorial situation.

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CALIFORNIA.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 20.

Upon our arrival at this famous southern resort (after a quick trip on the new train, The Owl) we immediately made ourselves comfortable in a sunny corner of Bellevue Terrace. This long line of turreted buildings, surrounded by smooth lawns and gardens of great beauty, occupies a prominent corner of the city, yet is so located that its quiet and natural beauty enable one to feel quite suburban.

One of our first trips was a trolley car ride of forty two miles, during which we saw Pasadena, San Gabriel mission and winery, "Lucky" Baldwin's ranch of 56,000 acres and the famous ostrich farm. Pasadena, the aristocratic suburb of Los Angeles, boasts of some of the handsomest homes to be found in California, and their beautiful effect is unbroken, owing to the small number of shops.

In almost all the great California country homes there is first, the very long drive between hedges or brilliant borders. The lawn is kept as smooth as a drawing room carpet, reminding one constantly of that familiar simile. Both within and without the green houses is what seems to us a perfect paradise of flowers, and the palms of the garden are almost tropical. One of California's great pleasures is the suburban life, and no one can picture its charm. The beauty of the houses with their handsome stables and their parks, and their clear little lakes on which the swan sail, or the drives, the hunt, the "paper chase," the golfing and the polo; without viewing all these intimately.

Baldwin's famous Santa Anita ranch furnished us with much to marvel at. Its broad acres lie in the midst of the ideal valley of San Gabriel. The brilliancy of the vast orange groves, the wealth of wonderful flowers, the miles of magnificent avenues, were delightful to see from the top of our rumbling coach on a day like early June at home.

The wise tourist will not leave California without inspecting the ostrich farm near Pasadena. The entrance is through the salesroom, where are exhibited a bewildering profusion of feathers in every form, from the plume to the elegant full cape or boa, all to be had at a reduced figure. On the grounds—rendered beautiful like most California grounds, by the landscape gardener's skillful use of its natural charms—one is shown the birds in every age and condition, from the toddling babies up to the magnificent adults, the mothers strutting in jealous alarm about the curious nests with their enormous eggs. It was most interesting to come face to face, at last, with the great bird to which comfort, beauty and fashion owe so much. The ostrich was imported into this state twelve years ago, during which time the industry has steadily thrived. Incubators are now largely used.

How we did enjoy wandering among the ruins of the missions, observing the signs of the old Jesuits' religious devotion. One of the most famous of these century-old Pacific coast missions is San Gabriel Archangel, nine miles from Los Angeles. The purity of its long lines and low pillard arches is at once inspiring and effective. Many of the most artistic homes here are now built in this same low mission style, even to the central court and the gallery.

As everybody knows there was little to teach those old Spanish padres about the making of brandy and sweet wines. The art brought with them from sunny Spain was put into use at once, but of the original twenty-two wineries, only two have kept up the industry; the missions now are monuments of a past age. The church of San Gabriel being built of stone mostly, has nobly resisted the efforts of time, but many years ago several thousands of its valuable acres were sold to J. de Barth Sharb, who continued and enlarged the wine industry thereon. It was this very ranch that inspired one of our most beautiful American stories, Ramona, and in this same beautiful valley is found the original Ramona cottage. Many do not know that the gentle Indian maiden of the story was named after one of Sharb's daughters. We have enjoyed the horse show very greatly, but as this institution is no special peculiarity of California, I shall not intrude a description of either horses or people.

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